$0.75

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Pop Music

Shortcuts To Happiness

'All Things Are Openly Exposed'

A ROCK AND ROLL STORY

Th Faith Healers, Jon Spencer Blues Explosion, The Breeders
Marquette University, Milwaukee 4.14.94

So here's the deal. I really want to see JSBX. I don't care about Th Faith Healers and could care even less about The Breeders. But how do you get into a show that's open to solledge students only? Well a good start was to get ahold of my friend Timebomb, who works at a record store and tell him about a JSBX show that he can't go to. Right. Now that that's taken care of.

A couple of days later he tells me he has 3 tickets to the show. OK now to get Brendan to drive. He's got the nice car. All I have to do is convince him that one great band out of three is a good idea. A couple of pulls on the tube of truth and he's going.

Now to get Friday off of work as the show is Thursday night. "what's that?" They need me to work a couple of hours early Tuesday. "well if I can come in a couple of hours late on Friday....It's a deal! Jon Spencer, here we come.

We get there Thurs. night and find we have seats in the balcony. The balcony? why? Oh, I see, these are the comp. seats, away from the frat-type Breeders fanatics. Cool.

Th Faith Healers come on and they're way noisier than I thoght they would be in a droning sort of way. Tom and Brendan weren't thrilled, but I didn't mind 'em too much. Don't think I'll buy their records though.

Between sets I decide to go and look at t-shirts and other overpriced shit. I buy a couple of 7"s and I'm happy when I get back to my seat. There upon Brendan tells me that Kim Deal asked him to watch her stuff. Yeah, right. He laughs and assures me that it's true. The lights dim and She sits down next to us. Kim Deal? Nope. Some bag lady. Wait a second,

That's no bag lady. Holy shit! That is Kim Deal! don't they have showers on the tour buses, Hon? What's in the bag? Beer and cigarettes. In a lecture hall? Well I gotta admire the attitude. But she left, in 20 minutes, amess that only Pigpen from Peanuts could appreciate. At least she enjoyed every fuckin' minute of pure fuckin' rocking Blues Explosion. Good for her.

Then she left so The Breeders could go on. The Breeders went on and we left.

End of story.

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SS Legend of Ross comp. #1
1B Mathew Haffie Hein #3
LF Irving Klaw trio #6
RF WALLPAPER [various decorating] #2
2B HELP ME
3B Noggin #8
CF WHAM-O #5
C WALLPAPER [slow Love Song] #4
P v/a compilation 7" #7

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ALL TAPES / ALL #3...
TO: 505 GARRISON St NE OLYMPIA WA 98506

The Live Reviews- First off, who gives a shit? If you weren't there for the show and it was cool, you don't want to here about it. And if it sucked, you glad you weren't there anyway.

Alex Chilton/Ben Vaughn- Club de Wash - Madison 2.5.94

All around nice guy Ben Vaughn may be the closest thing we'll ever see to Sonny Bono. While both performers are shamefully underrated Vaughn is the one who takes his show on the road. Ironically this show was to have happened about six years ago at O'Cayz Corral but Vaughn's van broke down in Iowa (at least it wasn't a plane.) That Chilton performance was opened by the Other Kids.

Touring to promote his new record Vaughn had the mostly college-agers eating out of his hand. His sing-alongs and call and response tunes are generally upbeat with some being a bit twisted with wry irony. The audience knew much of the material and shouted requests, some of which the singer performed to accompaniment of an accordionist and/or a very good sounding drum machine. (After the show Vaughn said the drum machine is helpful in keeping people's attention in settings where an acoustic guitar issn't enough.)

He encored with a haunting version of Tom T. Hall's That's How I got to Memphis. After seeing Vaughn live for the second time it's become pretty obvious that the guy's records don't do him justice.

Wearing a spangly plum-colored tux coat, the former Chilto Axel took to the stage with a characteristic yawn before diving in the Big Star nuggett In the Street. If Vaughn was one with the audience Chilton made certain he was in charge.

"Don't forget Bangkok," came the voice from the crowd. Chilton's reply was "I haven't forgotten it. In fact I just taught it to the band last night." He then proceeded to not play it. (At one point he asked the soundman what was playing over the PA, "The beat was so lame I thought I'd know it.")

Actually Chilton's shows generally end up being analyzed for what he doesn't play thna what he does. With the recent Big Star reissues and the Live almost-reunion lp, you'd expect more than a pair of Big Star tunes. Sorry.

Sure, he played Volare and another thing in Italian and even a couple songs off the Black List ep. But for the most part he used his vintage Gibsons and blackface Fender to wander into his now-familiar territory of blues/R&B/lounge standards. Solid and certainly credible, yet not the cloth teenage cult heroes are cut from.

Blaine Schultz

TAR BRANIAC & LUGNUT at Kuska's Hall
green bay 2.9.94
I didn't get there in time to see Lugnut but no big deal, they're a local band and they'll be around. Braniac on the other hand were quite a surprise. Amazingly tight andfull of enegy. They WERE like some new wave band gone bad. I think they made a whole bunch of new friends that night and I noticed that all their records were gone from the local record store the next afternoon. I left during Tar because... well, just becuase. Who cares?

SLUMBERLAND RECORDS
winter 93-94

8 just a taste
summershine label comp CD

16 linda smith
7" EP

19 st. christopher
7" EP

lorelei: asleep 7"/CD EP 32

33 tiger trap / henry's dress
split 7"

35 boyracer
7" EP

upcoming
boyracer mini-LP/CD
henry's dress mini-LP/CD
black tambourine comp CD

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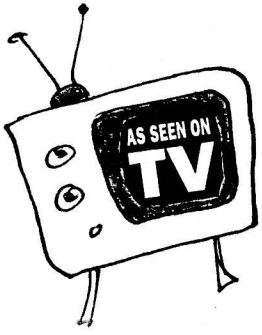
LEON THEREMIN(97)was born and died in Russia, where he spent time in a Gulag for anti Soviet propaganda. The Theremin, the electron ic instrument he invented, was played by waving hands close to an antenna. It wa first used publicly for classical concerts. RCA ma nufactured and sold there-mins in the 20"s. BRIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN and DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL and many other 50's sci-fi sound-tracks featured theremins as did records by Les Baxter, Captain Beefheart, The Beach Boys, and John Spencer Blues Explosion.

Can Your TV Set Give You Cancer?

AN OPEN LETTER TO MST 3K

THE ALLIGATOR PEOPLE
THE INCREDIBLE PETRIFIED WORLD
PAJAMA PARTY
ZONTAR, THE THING FROM VENUS*
THE INCREDIBLE TWO-HEADED TRANSPLANT
NOT OF THIS EARTH
PHANTOM FROM SPACE
THE WIZARD OF MARS
THE ALPHA INCIDENT
I WAS A TEENAGE WEREWOLF
PLAN NINE FROM OUTER SPACE*
THE INCREDIBLY STRANGE CREATURES WHO STOPPED LIVING AND BECAME MIXED-UP ZOMBIES
NIGHT OF THE LUPUS
INFRA-MAN
NIGHT OF THE GHOULS
QUEEN OF OUTER SPACE*
WILD GUITAR*
RAT PFINK a BOO BOO
VOYAGE TO THE PREHISTORIC PLANET
ANGRY RED PLANET
I WAS A TEENAGE FRANKENSTEIN
THE HORROR AT PARTY BEACH
ATTACK OF THE CRAB MONSTERS
ROLLER BLADE
VARAN THE UNBELIEVABLE
SATURN 3
TOBOR THE GREAT
INVASION FROM INNER EARTH
THE NEPTUNE DISASTER
INVASION OF THE SAUCER MEN
THE NAVY vs THE NIGHT MONSTERS
SERPENT ISLAND
THEY SAVED HITLER'S BRAIN
SHE DEMONS
TARANTULA
ATTACK OF THE PUPPET PEOPLE
THE H-MAN
THE BEAST OF YUCCA FLATS
HILLBILLIES IN A HAUNTED HOUSE
THE DAY THE WORLD ENDED
INVASION USA
MUTINY IN OUTER SPACE
THE MONSTER THAT CHALLENGED THE WORLD
THE INVISIBLE INVADERS
THE BEAST WITH A MILLION EYES
THE HIDEOUS SUN DEMON
BILLY THE KID vs DRACULA
THE HEAD
SPACE MASTER X-7
SWORD OF THE SPACE ARK
KISS MEETS THE PHANTOM OF THE PARK
MONSTER ON THE CAMPUS
THE INVISIBLE TERROR
THE DEADLY MANTIS
THE GREEN SLIME
BOG
SPACE MONSTER
LABORATORY
THE MONSTER OF PIEDRAS BLANCAS
ISLAND CLAWS
CURUCU, BEAST OF THE AMAZON
THE GIANT SPIDER INVASION*
THE BRAIN FROM PLANET AROUS
STAR ODYSSEY
KILLERS FROM SPACE
ISLAND OF LOST WOMEN
MONSTER FROM THE OCEAN FLOOR
DESTINATION INNER SPACE
CAT WOMEN OF THE MOON
THE GIANT CLAW*
STARSHIP INVASIONS
ISLAND OF TERROR
THE LAND UNKNOWN
THE MOLE PEOPLE
DINOSAURUS!
THE GHOST OF DRAGSTRIP HOLLOW
COSMIC MONSTERS
OCTAMAN*
IT! THE TERROR FROM BEYOND SPACE
THE LAST WOMAN ON EARTH
MISSION MARS
CREATURE OF DESTRUCTION
FUTURE WOMEN
EMPIRE OF THE ANTS
MISSILE TO THE MOON*
IT'S ALIVE
LATITUDE ZERO
FROGS
THE CREEPING TERROR*
FOOD OF THE GODS
THE MILPITAS MONSTER
MAN BEAST
THE 4-D MAN
FROM HELL IT CAME
JESSE JAMES MEETS FRANKENSTEIN'S DAUGHTER
MESA OF LOST WOMEN*
KILLDOZER
MAN WITH THE SYNTHETIC BRAIN
MARS NEEDS WOMEN
and last but not least
LOVE SLAVES OF THE AMAZON



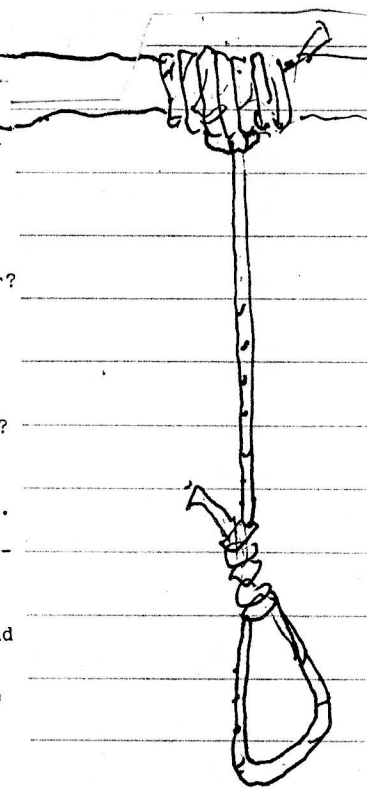
NOTES: Films preceded by an asterisk are particularly awful and get exceedingly high marks on our personal Gack-o-Meter, though all these flicks have their own unique faults. It should be noted, however, that a few of them actually had some kinda good special effects (i.e.,"Tarantula",for example) and some had quaint faded star power (e.g.: Basil Rathbone,and..um...well, there's him, anyway), but for one reason or a dozen, they're included on this list. Far be it from us to try to tell you folks how to do your jobs; this is just a small gathering of titles we thought you might get a kick out of perusing and, perhaps, discover a heretofore hidden gem in the vast wasteland of truly atrocious films.

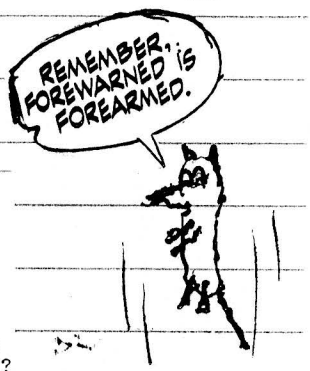
Please keep up the fantastic work, everyone, and MAY THE SPIRIT OF SIMON OAKLAND BE WITH YOU ALWAYS!

Good Morning, You Manatees!

12 ~~20~~ QUESTIONS FOR KRAMER

MR:OK, I know your pressed for time so instead of the interview thing, I'm just gonna throw a handful of questions at you and we'll go from the there. Everyone gets this one. What was the 1st record you ever bought?
K Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. I bought at the local thrift store for $3.14.
MR:I know you're in a position to get a lot of stuff for free,so what was the last record you had to buy?
K:Well, generally if I can't get it for free, I don't need it. But sometimes I will trade CDs in on other stuff I want so that would be LaMont young-A Well Tuned Piano. He's sort of the founding father of minimalism.
MR:Do you like being a producer or perfomer better?
K:Definately a producer. I don't really care to be out on the road. I just like to stay home.
MR What do you like to listen to at home?
K:DEAD SILENCE! Especially after a whole day in the studio. Maybe a little TV
MR What song or record was it that made you decide that music was a good way to make a living?
K Easy! Brian Eno's "Here come the Warm Jets"
MR: OK So how did Kokpop get started?
K Well it was a reaction ~~THX~~ to the politically correct ghetto I found myself in with Shimmy Disc. I wanted to do a label for pop bands.
MR:Brace yourselk, we're gonna do the heavy questions now. Do you like NY?
K:No. Ilive in New Jersey.
MR:Do you like New Jersey?
K NO I would rather be in Jamaica, a little island about a 100 miles from Cuba.
MR: I'm pretty sure I know where it is. So who's record collection are standing in front of on the Captain Howdy single?
K:Thats Penn Gillette's. But if you look closely you'll see that its really mostly video tapes & lazer discs of porn.
MR:Hmmm. Have you ever been to Green Bay?
K:Yah, a long time ago. At least ten years ago with Shockabilly.
MR:What was the last book you read?
K:Well in entirety, probably the hunter thompson biography.





MR Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas is one of my favorite books. I can open it up anywhere and be laughing my ass of inside of 3 minutes.
K:Yeah. I don't think my father would laugh at it, but I really Like it.
MR: OK We're almost done and then I'll let you go. My last question for 25 points... If you were up to your ass in alligators, how do you spell relief?
K:(long pause)P-O-O-N-T-A-N-G
MR:Oh, OK

Hey, it was his answer not mine. I didn't ask him to elaborate. I thanked him for his time,then I ate the phone # as instructed, then I went and played Here Come THe Warm Jets.

Can You Fathom the Allusion?

A Catastrophe Revisited

A QUESTION OF CHARACTER(S)

BY

Mark Anderson

Ant Navigation

N.Y. Times News Service

Whilst patronizing a local pub I struck up conversation with a couple of other erstwhile patrons. Forces beyond the control of mere mortals brought the subject around to (yikes!) politics. As if that weren't quite volatile enough I just had to court the very wrath of god and ask a question thought to have caused earthquakes in california: How 'bout that Bill Clinton? A response came at me like a projectile "He'll be impeached in june!" I was perplexed. " What events would precipitate such a disgrace?" Iasked. Both of these gentlemen went on to explain how former white house council Vince Foster was murdered IN THE WHITE HOUSE and then THEY changed his clothes then THEY transported his body to a public park and thenTHEY put a gun in his hand. "Who the hell is THEY?" was my obvious question. The answer: HILLARY'S PEOPLE".That really was the answer I kid you not. Not only can she bring home the bacon then fry it up in the pan but she's a criminal mastermind too. What a gal. My new drinkin' buddies went to tell me how the Clinton's embezzled 2.5 Million dollars from the Madison Savings and Loan in Arkansas. At this point you're wondering,as I did,what Hill& Bill could've done with all that dough? Answer: "They spent it". Though neither of my newfoundcompatriots was slurring his speech I was nonetheless convinced that both must have nipped the grain a little too mightily. "Where do you get your news from?" I enquired. "The Planet Tralfamador?" But as it turned out these two citizens had been listening to some radio personality with a queer sort of a name like Mush Limpdong or something like that. My two fellow Americans counciled me that if I were to listen to this "Mush Limpdong*" only briefly that I wouldn't be able to "understand". Indeed these gentlemen insisted that I would need to listen to the Limpdong show for six weeks and then I would "understand". What my friends may not have known is that "Mush" was not the only one carrying these stories. Pat Robertson has been running "Hillary's People" stories on the 700 CLUB ; inbetween bashing the Clinton Health Care Plan. Curiously not more than about three weeks ago in place of the 700 CLUB for one day only was a program with the honarable Rev. Jerry Falwell offering viewers the oppurtunity to purchase a video entitled "Prescription For Disaster" outlining the evils of health care reform.If you sent the good reverend forty bucks you would receive another video "free". This was basically another "Hillary's People" type of deal only in this one all kinds of people are being murdered right and left merely for daring to expose this Bonnie & Clyde of modern American poloitics Just to provide a little perspective; for forty bucks you can go to the mall and buy videos of "Inherit the Wind" and "Elmer Gantry" and still have enough left over for hot dog and Big Slurpee. Curiously Republican Congressman DICK Armey also drew a correlation between accusations of White House scandal and the healthcare debate when he was recently asked the question "Do you think you should have more proof before you disparaging the presidents reputation?" "Hey,fair is fair" said DICK "After all the president has been disparaging the reputation of the insurance industry in this country for some time".I feel the congressman was speaking for alot of us voters out here who get a nice warm fuzzy feeling whenever we think about thi insurance industry. My goodness I certainly wouldn't want to suggest by outlining the preceding events that the insurance industry may have had something todo with spreading scurrilous rumors about our president and first lady. I think we can all sleep quite soundly comforted in the thought that our insurance companies are much too scrupulous for such chicanery. In the words the bard put into the mouth of Marc Anthony as he spoke to the proletariat concerning Brutus and his murderous co-conspirators:"These are honarable men".

* The name "Limpdong" is derived from the french "Dong au shriveleaux" meaning quite simply a dong what has gone south for the winter, babe.

25 Celestial Lines of Position

There will be no comic reviews this time around because I got sick of the lame fuck who runs the local comics store. I don't need some self righteous Christian telling me what I can read, much less lying to me about whether he can get it. His name is Ron and he runs Powerhouse Comics. Actually, he only runs one but there are several more through out the state and they all must order through him so take your chances, but I won't buy from any of them just on princpal. As soon as I find a new source for comics I will resume reviews, but until then why don't you tell what you like from the land of print.

BLOOD FEAST

It took me awhile but I finally found a copy of what is considered to be the granddaddy of splatter movies. Made in 1963 for about$20,000in nine days, it's right up there with some of the worst movies anybody has ever made. The acting ranges from kind of OK (as investigating detective, Rooney Kerwin looks like he's actually trying) to hysterically rotten, and the look of the film is appropriately cheap. The plot concerns a mad Egyptian who runs a catering service and murders young nubiles to collect body parts so he can resurrect some goddess. Sounds good, huh? If you want gore, you got it. This movie broke ground in it's time for what could be shown in terms of grisly dismembered limbs and misc. mayhem, but dom'texpect anything remotely nauseating. The blood is acrylic red paint and Karo syrup varity ; and the surrounding story is so badly played and shot that what was once gross and scary is now funny, sleazy, and truly awful. So whats the point? This: nothing like Blood Feast had ever been made before, and without it, film audiences wouldn't have a point of reference for the onslaught of equally horrible flicks that followed. It's a lot of fun if bad movies are fun for you. Recommended! - Pederson -30-

FEET HURT?

SIT DOWN & READ A BOOK

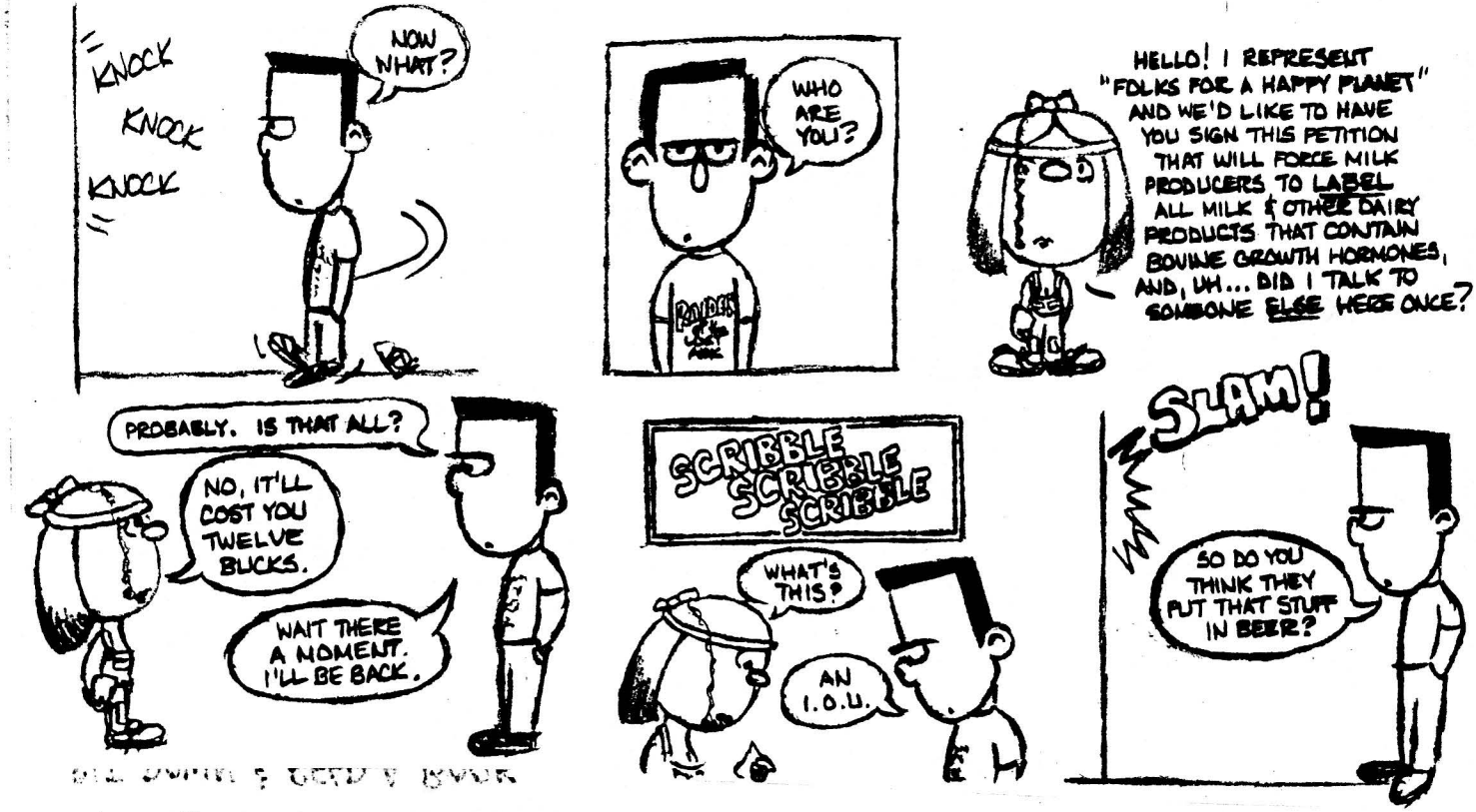
FULLNESS-Scott Banks(jupa press)·An extremely interesting book written in a style that must be a lot like the delivery of the talks that they come from. Scott Banks gives talks without rehearsing or memorizing them. He just goes up and talks about any number of contemporary issues. Once you get into the rythm of this book, you can almost picture him giving these talks. A very nice afternoon of reading, indeed.

MEPHISTO IN ONYX-Harlan Ellison(?):Another quick read but also a very good one. Sort of like a reworking of the sci-fi classic "The Demolished Man", but with enough plot twists to make you wonder just "what the hell is going on?'. The Frank Miller cover should be just enough to send you in the direction of this book.

Manic Pop Thrill-Rachel Felder: Rachel has apparently decided that there are only about 8 "alternative" bands that matter and everything else is derivative of them. Say it ain't so! This book is chock full of bad facts and absurd statements. "For background listening, the essential band was the Velvet Underground." I always thought background listening was muzak. Boring, boring, boring. The book, that is.

INDIE JONES in SHA LA LA MAN

a true story



STORY by Dave Art by Tom

RIVETHEAD
AN INTERVIEW WITH BEN HAMPER

So I'm talking to a guy I barely know, and we get on the subject of what I do for a living and when I tell him I work at a factory, he asks me if I have ever read Rivethead. Since I tell him no, he tells me it's about a guy who worked at a factory in Flint when they got shut down and wrote about it. I was interested enough to pick up a copyand read it.

This isn't just a book by a guy who worked at a factory. this is by a guy whose life was dominated by THE FACTORY. I wish I could say that he came through it unscathed, but just read it and find out for yourself.

I was so moved by this book that I had to track down Ben Hamper and talk to him about, what else, music. Among other things.

MR All right. So how did Alex Chilton end up in the Thank You's at the front of the book?

BH We'll, I've known Alex for about a dozen years, at least that long. I was a fan of Big Star right out of the gate. I mean, when their first album came out.

MR I didn't catch on until much later.

BH YAH, Most people didn't. It so happens that I had a brother-in-law who was a DJ back in Flint, back in 1973, the year I graduated high school, and the radio station he worked for literally dumped records in the trash that they didn't think were worthy of air play. In this stack of LPs he gave me one time was the first Big Star record. In fact, then when the 2nd album came out it was even better, so I was always sort of mesmerized by this band. Then once I saw Alex at an "oldies" show where he was being presented as the Box Tops and as the show got ready to go on, he came out and sat at this little table and I thought, "What the Hell", so I walked over to him and I said, "Mind if I talk to you after the show?". I used this radio show shit to approach him.

MR A lot like what I'm doing right here.

BH And so we hit it off and whenever he'd come to Michigan, he would call me up and I come out to see him. But it was his music more than anything. I'd play his tapes at work when I could fit them in. Or, if we couldn't, I'd go out to my car on my lunch break and blast Radio City and guzzle beer and sort of recharge my batteries.

MR I just saw Alex Chilton last Saturday Night in Madison.

BH I think the last time I was in Madison, I was on my way to the Spam Festival.

MR Jesus! Don't tell me they have a town here that celebrates Spam?

BH Not actually, it's a Bluegrass Festival. I was going to review a bunch of those little festivals for my new book, but its since taken a different turn.

MR Do you read alot of books?

BH Not really. I think Lou Reed said it once, "Everytime I try to read a book, I can never get past page 17." Plus, the medication I'm on doesn't lend itself to a long attention span. I do read alot of magazines, and poetry and shit.

MR. So did you gain instant fame with the publication of your book and did it change you much?

BH Well, it is doing much better than I ever thought. Plus, I've sold the movie rights, so it has certainly helped me financially.

MR. So, the system you spent so much time bucking, now seems to be working for you?

BH No, I'm just being eaten' up by another monster.

MR. Ok, before I go Ben, tell me some of your favorite bands.

BH I really like the Swingin' Neckbreakers and the Devil Dogs, oh, and the Queers. I think they are one of those best kept secrets. Plus, the Game Theory reissues that just came out. If you are not into them, you're not into pop.

KRONOS QUARTET

A string quartet that plays jazz and rock? Kronos does it all.

Cello
Joan Jeanrenaud

Violin
John Sherba

Viola
Hank Dutt

Violin
David Harrington

Aren't we lucky here in Green Bay? Kronos Quartet played at the local performing arts center in March. Cool. Finally something I've always wanted to see and I don't have to drive a 100 miles to see it.

If you're not familiar with Kronos, maybe you should be. While covering the standard classical fare, they also do such classic "rock" songs like Marquee Moon and Purple Haze. And with over 50 people commissioned to do original pieces for them, they have no shortage of material to choose from. When I say they cover the standard classical fare you must realize this is always in the inimatable Kronos fashion.

I thought I might try to get an interview with one of them but I didn't think it would really happen. Turns out it wasn't that hard to do, except I would have to do it in person. I'm used to doing these things on the phone so I was pretty intimdated. Turns out that was pretty pointless also as David Harrington was one of the nicest people you could hope to meet, and didn't have a problem at all with doing an interview with some slob who puts out a little pop music fanzine.

The night before the show I took my sweaty palms filled with notebook and trusty tape recorded to the hotel room of founder and head guy of Kronos, David Harrington. I entered a room strewn with cd's and tapes of every imaginable kind and felt immediately at home.

Here we go. Damn! My tape recorded doesn't work! You mean I've got to WRITE this stuff down? Uh, could you speak a little slower please, Mr. Harrington?

MR: Every body gets this one. What was the first record you ever bought?

DH: The Budapest Quartet doing Beethoven's Opus 127 when I was 12 years old back in 1961.

MR: What made you move in this direction? I mean most kids want to be rock and roll stars.

DH: Well that record was it. When I heard it I just knew that was what I wanted to do.

MR: Can you remember your favorite show?

DH: Theres been a lot of really great shows. Ones where you can almost feel the audience listening to you. One in Amsterdam on (?, I can"t read my own writing) and one outdoors in Adelaide, but my favorite may have been the show we did on my fortieth birthday. It was opening night of the Myerson Center in Dallas.

MR: What's one of the craziest places you've played?

DH: We played the Roskalde Rockfest outside Copenhagen. There were like five different stages and a Woodstock-like atmospere about the whole thing.

MR: If you could go back in time and meet one person, who would it be?

DH: The person whoever first put two beats together and founded a melody.

Later that night, I discovered that I had the pause button on on the tape recorded. Nah, I wasn't nervous at all. The next night I was treated to a couple of seats up near the front for one of the most amazing performances I have ever seen. When they were done, all I could do was walk out shaking my head and mumbling "so that's how they do that". Thank you, Kronos. Thank you, very much.

SUPERCHUNK *foolish* MRG 060 LP/CD/CS OUT APRIL 18TH

THE MAGNETIC FIELDS *the charm of the highway strip* MRG 055 cd/cs OUT APRIL 18TH

THE 3DS *the venus trail* MRG 065 cd/cs OUT MAY 2ND

THE 3DS *hey seuss b/w river burial* MRG 064 OUT NOW

SUPERCHUNK *the first part* MRG 059 cd5/7" OUT NOW

THE BATS *"Live at WFMU"* MRG 058 4-song 7" OUT NOW

SQUIRREL NUT ZIPPERS *"Roasted Right"* MRG 057 3-song 7" OUT NOW

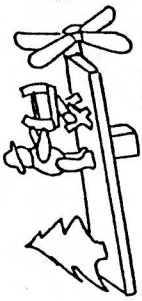
MERGE RECORDS

Post Office Box 1235 Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Write Us For Free Catalog

small 23-free t shirts for Spain(alias):More fine tobacco rock from these folks who seem to have changed their name. "Why ?" is certainly beyond me. I just hope they don't change too much else. Possibly their finest release yet. All full of big guitars&punk rock&pop songs. Coming to a college radio station near you. which isn't all bad since there isn't one near me.

MEKONS-Retreat From Memphis(1/4stick):We here at malathion risk, meaning me, have always considered ourselves receptive to all sorts of music. Therefore the Mekons retain godlike status in our eyes. And once again they crank out another classic that sounds nothing like the last one and yet always sounds like the Mekons. Of course, this sounds best when I come home late at night, all loaded. But then they always did. There is nothing pop about this record and yet it belongs here because records this good are few and far between, no matter what you call them.

an amusing wind-powered yard ornament



the dentists-behind the door i keep the universe(east west):you can get this on cd or in a nifty little box of singles. I prefer the box because the cd just sounds like a bunch of singles strung together. In other words, the great songs are pure pop heaven but some of the other songs would have best been left relegated to b-sides. Slick as hell, brit-pop, but if thats your bag this is the real mccoy.

ATTENTION
ALL YOU LIVER LOVERS

Meices-Tastes Like Chicken(london?):generic thrill

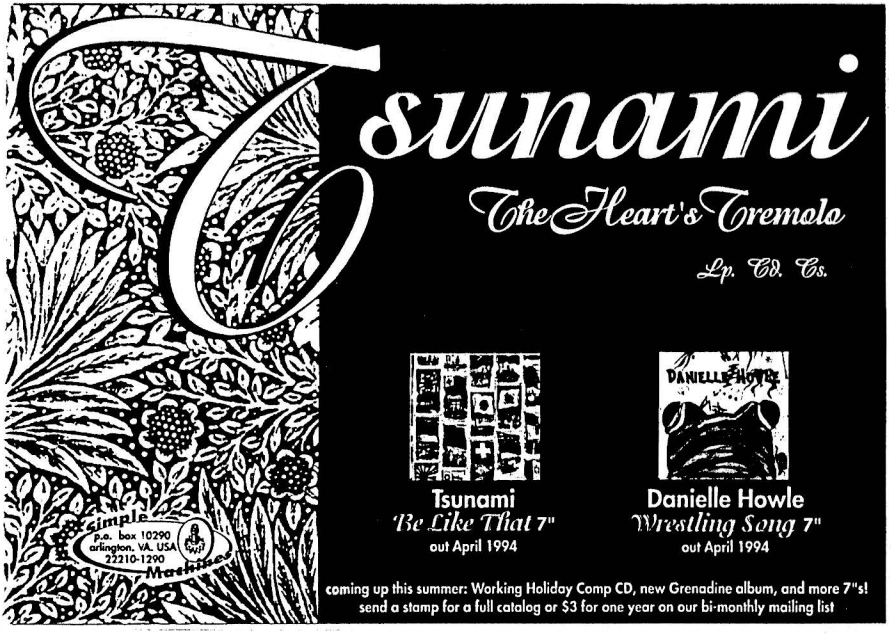
Stereolab-Transient Random Noise Bursts With Announcements(elektra);Say Mark Robinson was driving a 4-wheel-drive Unrestt down a steep winding mountain road, when suddenly it careens off the road, down the hillside, bouncing over boulders, scraping against trees and just narrowly missing flipping and sending the whole thing head over heels down the mountain. Thats the feeling I get when I hear this Stereolab Record. Or when I bite into a York peppermint pattie.

Learn To Play The Piano Overnight!

portastatic-i hope your heart is not brittle& naked pilseners(merge lp & matador 7");First off this is mothing like the portastatic ep on 18 wheeler records. It is indeed, Mac, With minimal help from his friends. I think he's been listening to the Xpressway reissues along with everybody else. He also throws in a lot of those nifty little bedroom 4 track tricks we've become so fond of around here.

At times it even sounds a bit like the new S/chunk stuff of course. But you never forget that this is a Mac solo record. It's really good but you won't be able to keep it with your punk records.

The 7" is a song off the lp plus 2 more, one of which id a Magnetic Fields cover. I assume this is Matador's way of getting a slice of the pie. Buy it anyway, collector scum!



"What Makes A Great Pop Song"

Melody, grooves, hooks, riffs, magic, space, delivery, emotion .... a few songs come to mind as classic examples "Ticket To Ride" and "Tin Man", "Show Me The Way", "September Girls", ... but this is all pop. But what makes a great song? It depends I guess. The way it sounds to my ears and the way it makes me feel. I think it all comes down to the "sound" of it. Usually, for me, it's the melodic blend of everything that catches my attention the most. ~~It was in Sears and I heard a song by~~

Yeah, that's the best way to describe it though. It's the "sound", because I can get the same feeling listening to a song by Royal Trux that I get listening to Wings ("Juniors Farm") A great feeling! But there's more sentimentality attached to music from '64 to '84 'cos I grew up with those songs etched into my psyche. So it's all a personal thing maybe. Like Peter Frampton sang "Music is my food in life ... don't take it away" * Yes, that sums it up!

* from "I Wanna Go To The Sun"
("Somethings Happening" Lp © 1974)

Jim Rao
Associate Scientist

Where is that Albert The Alligator Figurine?
Somebody's got to have one! And for crying out loud
GO SEE A BAND THIS WEEKEND!!!!

LET'S SING IT RIGHT

HOT ROD-Speed Danger Death(caroline):You know, you read everywhere about how much Paula Kelly sounds Like Juliana H. and I'll be goddamned if they're not right. So much so it'd actually driven some of my friends from the room. I'll have to give them credit though, as a band they're much better than JH3 so if you can get past the vocals this isn't that bad of a record. If you can't though you know exactly what you're in for. Someone once said that talent is a flame, genius is a fire. I'd compare this to, oh, say a new Bic lighter

BOYRACER-AUL 36X ep(slumberland)This record on the other hand reminds me of those big outta control wildfires they have every year out west. This 5 songer rips and shreds its way around the turntable literally leaving my needle smoking. Pure britpop & feedback and not a club beat in sight. Easily as good as the Purity & Purgatory ep, which surely you own by now. Send them your $$ and get this record. Surely one of the best things I've heard in a long time. If your idea of pop is Green Day, you're about to have your eyes opened.

CIRCULAR RUBBING MOTION-st(?); This record is really on fire. Honestly, I just threw it on a pile of old winter deadfall I was burning in my back yard, so it would never get played again in my house, even by accident!

GASTR dEL SOL-Crookt, Crackt, or Fly(drag city); This record is every bit as weird and wonderful as the last one. And its on drag city. There now I've given you 2 good reasons to get it. Want another one? Because I said so. And my taste is impeccable. Sometimes.

Archers of Loaf-Icky Mettle(alias):Crashing right out of the gate with a new(read;slicked up) version of*web in front" this moves quickly from pop to punk rawk and then just as quickly back. I don't play this record nearly as much as I used to, which leads me to beleive it not as good as I origanally thought. Still there are a handfull of great songs on here. Maybe just a slight case of over-ambition. An ep would have been fine.

* yeah, yeah. I know. DuChamp! I fucked up. So...

CAKE LIKE-Delicious(avant):Mighty buzy time of it these gals have, as they cluck and cackle, raising a foul din almost as if they were convinced of the importance of their activities.

PERMANENT GREEN LIGHT-Against Nature(rockville)
THE LOUD FAMILY-Plants, & Birds,...
Both of these records sort of remind me of if you had wallpaper of Nude Descending a Staircase by Picasso* or Paris in the Spring by Van Gogh. It's really cool to look at at first, but ultimately it's only wallpaper.

Godstar-Sleeper(taang):A miserable piece of dreck compounded by the fact "die,evan,die" dando contributes to a couple of the tracks makes this completely useless.

lilys-a brief history of amazing letdowns(spinArt) Brief and amazing are the key words here. A year and a half after their great lp, lilys let us peek into their world again, even if only for a short time. This should shake off those MBV comparisons for awhile. With clearer song structure and tons of those fuzzy guitars that set my little pop heart going pitter patter. This owes a lot more to American pop than any droning band from across the pond. If you only buy 2 records this week, make sure this is one of them.

TIGER TRAP/HENRY'S DRESS split 7"(slumberland): Tiger Trap? Are you sure this is Tiger Trap? I thought they broke up. Well it does sound like they have been listening to their Black Tamborine records. Is this the song I thought was a cover so long ago? It remains a mystery. With repeated listening you will find this is a very good song.
This would be my first exposure to Henry's Dress but I'm looking forward to the mini lp coming out soon. Another one for the heavy rotation stack.

SUPERCHUNK-Foolish (merge): The truth can now be told. I've been enjoying an advance tape of this record since Xmas time on the grounds that I wouldn't bootleg. Bootleg it? Hell, I wouldn't even let my friends dub it. But they could come over and here it anytime they wanted. Which did happen quite frequently. This is the other record you should buy this week.
Don't just sit there like a fool. Go get one.

Wisdom Of A Jedi Knight
Portable, Lightweight & Durable
Massage Of A Lifetime
All-Natural Ingredients
More Energy, No Heartburn

THE COMPACT DISC
WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Silver Jews-The Arizona Record(drag city): This record seems to represent the exact opposit of what every engineer or producer was trying to achieve when they first entered the studio. Lo-fi, buzzing, sloppy, lazy, and inaccesable. And yet strangly soothing. Strange. Very strange, indeed.

Pavement-Crooked Rain, Crooked Rain(matador):Nope, I'm not going to review this record because everybody on gods green earth is going to. Listen to what they say and take your chances.

THE ORCHIDS-Striving For That Lazy Perfection (sarah): I'm glad the Orchids realize they haven't reached perfection yet, because they should keep trying. Although at times this does come damn close. We all know what a sucker I am for strummy guitars. I just wish they would replace those club beats with a little feedback. Still this does'nt suffer a lethal dose of club beat like that Even As We Speak lp(thus rendering it unlistenable). This is also a head above their Lyceum 10" and the songs on the Sarah comp, somehow making this record much better than it should be.

Super Colon Cleanse

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD-compilation cd(grass):This is a really long collection of songs and I was over whelmed at the thought of reviewing this entire thing. So I came up the idea to use the old 5 star rating system. I also enlisted the help of my roommate Tom in the undertaking of this momentous task. After a quick briefing of the rules, we decided that we should also get the help of our old friend Bud Weiser. After a run to the store, we dove in.

It would be ridiculous to do this song by song, so heres how it averaged out.

DISK ONE: DAVE 2.5 stars TOM 3.5 stars

DISK TWO: DAVE 3.0 stars TOM 3.0 stars

So the whole thing averages out to 3 stars which leaves it right in the middle of the road. We both agreed it was still far better than sitting through that much Frank Sinatra.

KIM DEAL

Clints-Homegrown Jam ep(pie):Straight raggedy pop sort of like a roughed up Shoes. Yah, you-ve heard it before and probably at least 10 years ago. But still... I can't help but like it, it's FUN!

It's Like Playing A Video Game

in 1993:

10 women's clinics were bombed or torched.

3 doctors shot.

1000's of women and clinic workers harassed.

36 states denied young women freedom of choice.

Stop the violence

Stand up for abortion rights

Rock for Choice

ROCK FOR CHOICE

To find out what you can do write:
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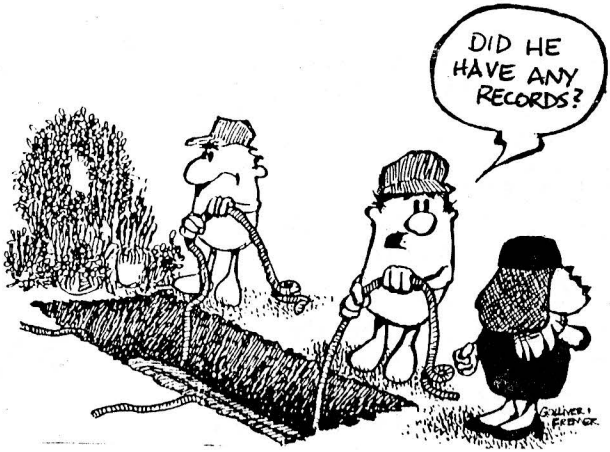
Los Angeles, CA 90048

Eat To Live!

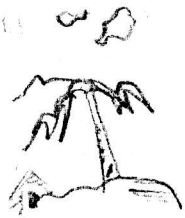


power POPPERS

The Rooks-s/t lp(guardian); Whew, excuse me while I dust myself off. There we go. I'm listening to the debut from The Rooks, again. This is straight ahead 2 guitar, bass, and drums R&R. 2 guys, 2 gals for those of you who need to know. I got this from a friend in NYC, incidently, where the band hails from, with a note saying "If you're a pure pop fan, you're gonna fall for this big time". Yah, right! I've heard that before. Whoops, excuse me. DUST-DUST. She's almost right. But I didn't exactly fall for this, it just plain knocks me down. No frills, no machines, just catchy hooks, swell harmonies, and sparkling production make this one a must own. Just make sure you're sitting down the first time you listen to it.

Monsterland-Destroy What You Love(seed): We're talking serious power pop here. This record reminds me of the first time I heard Perfect Sound Forever or Bailter Space, whom they cover. Thers tons of loud snarly guitars, but buried under all that there is some plain swell pop music. They're not afraid of their own inate popnesss but they're also not afraid to "rock out". Which is what makes this record so damn good.

Zen-Out In Your Office



EGGS-Teenbeat 96 exploder(teenbeat);With everybody supposedly ripping off the 70's this record sounds most like what I might have heard on my parent's dining room radio while I was eating my Rice Krispies and thinking about some way to skip school so I could hang out and play baseballlwith the older guys, only better. Except for the parts that sound like weak Deep Purple & the parts that sound like Kraftwerk & the parts that sound l like Wimp Factor 14 & the part that sounds like whales & ..oh I'm so confused & the damn bird won't shut up....

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THIS JUST IN...

The Salamanders-All Rusted ~~UP~~ OUT/Sad, Sad, Sad(rocket racket) A truly kickin' little single. File side A under cool car somgs ala NRBQ. Side B gets filed under sad little pop songs that bring a great big smile to your face.

further-sometimes chimes lp(christmas)Wow 75 mins of low fi, lackadaisácal strum and buzz with a few studio tricks thrown in for good measure. This stuff really belongs on cassette. Never vynil. But what the hell, we're in the 90's so CD's cool. Basement rock goes to the living room. Still I'm gonna throw it on tape, so I can take it with me in the car and listen to it a lot.

Barnabys-Augustus Loop(spinArt)The full length release by THE philly popsters. With tongue planted firmly in cheek, they gives us a dozen or so new songs and a handfull of reworks that get me so worked up I spend 45 minutes running between my fridge for beer and my stereo to turn it up.

THE BLOW POPS-AMERICAN BEAUTIES(get hip):
This is a great record, goddammit!

T-minus 12 hours. This is what I like right now: Freedy Johnston at The Chamber last weekend; the Bats 7" on Merge; making this zine; winter is gone; the Wrens; Hectic Planet; Miles Davis autobiography; Fiz; a bunch of true D.I.Y. tape people; beer; eel stew; ~~working on Saturday~~ sticker paper; vinyl (see I do know how to spell it)

You won't find ~~any comics~~ or zine reviews this time around. I only got a couple of zines but they at least deserve a mention. One is Inklings and Musings by John Whistler, and the other was Geek Girl by allie rollins. Both are good and will be covered when I have enough zines to review.

Let the person know in no uncertain terms that the relationship is over

Tucked in the shadows of the Groom Mountains in southern central Nevada is a top-secret military base guarded by lethal force. Here, the military spends some $100 million a day on projects not even Congress knows anything about. And Spin does?!

"ANYBODY WONNA GO TO LAS VEGAS?"

POETRY CORNER

Doggy, Doggy up a tree
Trying to Catch that little Bee
When he got him by the Stinger
Doggy took a dive, that's a real humdinger.

THE MALATHION RISK CONTEST
ARE YOU READY???
WINNER GETS SOMETHING COOL!

Tiger, that pitifully cute dog from the Brady Bunch was the star of what movie? Hint: Tiger won the doggy oscar for his performance.

NEW FROM JUPA

Jupa has put together a book of some talks given by artist/writer Scott Banks. I saw a few of these performed, and they were dynamite. Topics range from teenage sex to father figures to campus feminism to problems of subjectivity--all the things that make the Inland Empire a fine place to live. Points of reference include David Antin and Spalding Gray. The packaging is top-flight, as is the writing. This is not some cheap xerox job. It's an honest-to-goodness bound book, not a fanzine. Definitely worth checking out, if you're in the mood to read something. 137 pages. Scott Banks, Fullness. Yours for a mere $8.00.

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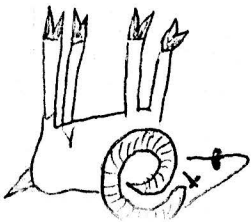
Getting Help

Help in robbery sought

Send no money now. You will be contacted later.

THE END!

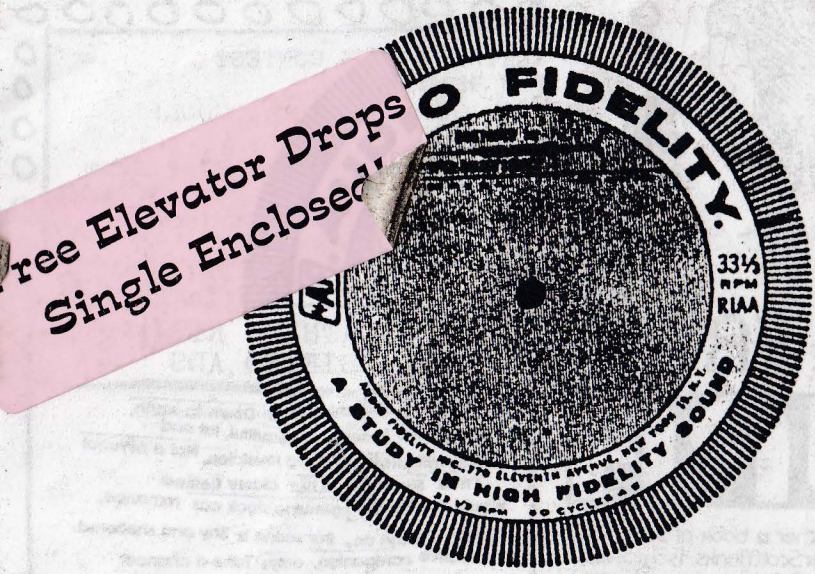


Why the Back Hurts

A year ago I sat in the same spot I'm sitting in right now with a can of beer that looks exactly like the one in front of me and started working on Malathion Risk NO.1. I never thought it was good only fun. As long as it remains fun, and somebody likes it, I'll keep doing it.

I also never thought I would be in touch with as many great people that I have met(sort of). Typically I bit off more than I could chew. So this is an all around apology to all the bands or people who have given me their time for interviews that may or may not see the light of day. I really do a appreciate it, but trying to keep this as informal as possible the interview format doesn't always work.

That doesn't mean I'll stop calling and asking questions. So be warned. If your phone rings and it sounds like it's from far away, it may be me!



The strobe pattern on this zine when viewed unde r a 60 cycle neon or fluorescent light source should remain in position if your turntable speed is correct. If there is a marked "walking" of the stroboscopic pattern the turntable speed is off.

So by now, y'all know that Malathion Risk is putt out quarterly by me. Send whatever pleases you to 415 s. jackson, green bay, wi. 54301. Malathion Risk is lovingly handcrafted in small batches, and is safe for all septic systems.

I know, I know, I never print the addresses but if you can"t find anything in here, write me and I'll provide you with any info I have.

~~THERE ARE ALMOST 50 XXX~~

misspelled words and all this is my thing!
(with a little help from my friends)